

Dear Ms. Roman Salas:

cc:

U.S. Department of Justice DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Office of the General Counsel		Washington, D.C. 20535	HECEIVEN
		February 17, 2000	FED -
Ms. Magalie Roman Salas			FEB 1 7 2000
Secretary			CARGE OF CALADIA
Federal Communications Commission			OFFICE OF THE SOCKETING
445 12th Street, S.W.			
Room TW-A325			
Washington, D.C. 20554			
In the Matter of:)		
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Communications Assistance for Law	j ,	CC Docket No. 97-213	
Enforcement Act	Ś		
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Enclosed for filing please find an original and eleven copies of the Reply to Comments on FBI/DOJ Petition for Reconsideration and/or Clarification, filed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the matter pending before the Commission as captioned above.

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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20545

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In the Matter of:)	FEB 17 2000 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	
Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act) CC Docket))	t 97-213	

REPLY TO COMMENTS ON FBI/DOJ PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION AND/OR CLARIFICATION

In our petition for reconsideration and/or clarification regarding FCC 99-229, we asked the Commission to clarify or amend its Order to make clear either that: (1) a carrier who sells telecommunications services to a reseller, who in turn sells the services to the public on a common carrier basis, is itself a "telecommunications carrier" under CALEA with respect to such services; or (2) that insofar as the underlying carrier is not a "telecommunications carrier," the reseller remains responsible in full for ensuring that the services it provides to the public are CALEA-compliant. Unless the Commission takes one of these two steps, the Order will create an unwarranted gap in CALEA in cases where the underlying carrier is not deemed to be a telecommunications carrier.

The Telecommunications Resellers Association (TRA) argues that its members have no ability to control the equipment and facilities of providers from whom they purchase services, and for that reason, they should be excused from their CALEA assistance capability obligations with respect to telecommunications services that are provided through such

equipment and facilities. As TRA recognizes, however, resellers are free to insist on CALEA-compliant equipment when they enter into contracts with service providers, and if a particular provider is not willing to offer such equipment, the reseller is free to turn to other service providers who are. As a result, the basic premise that underlies TRA's filing -- namely, that resellers "could never achieve compliance with CALEA assistance capabilities" because they have no control over whether their services are performed with CALEA-compliant equipment (TRA 6) -- is incorrect.

Naturally, if a reseller is currently bound by a contract that precludes it from insisting on the use of CALEA-compliant equipment (TRA 4), we are not suggesting that the reseller should be obliged to break its contract by turning to other providers. But as soon as the reseller is contractually at liberty to do so, it should be required to meet its assistance capability obligations by turning to providers who have CALEA-compliant equipment or by insisting that its current provider employ such equipment.

TRA also suggests that resellers are "not in a position to effect an interception" with respect to communications carried on their service providers' networks (TRA 4). If TRA means that, as a physical matter, the interception must be performed through the service provider's equipment and facilities, that is correct. But it does not follow, as TRA suggests, that resellers are therefore somehow inherently unable to meet the assistance capability obligations set forth in Section 103 of CALEA. Under Section 103, a reseller must "ensure" that its "services that provide a customer or subscriber with the ability to originate, terminate,

or direct communications are capable of providing call content and reasonably available call-identifying information. 47 U.S.C. § 1002(a). A carrier who contracts with a service provider for the use of CALEA-compliant equipment and facilities has done precisely that. And that is all that our petition seeks.

Finally, it should be reiterated that the Commission can close the gap created by its Order in either of two ways: either by requiring resellers to ensure that their services meet CALEA's assistance capability requirements, as discussed above, or by providing that a carrier who sells telecommunications services to a reseller is itself a "telecommunications carrier" under CALEA with respect to such services. If the Commission prefers the latter alternative, that would be equally satisfactory from the standpoint of law enforcement.

DATE:

February 17, 2000

Respectfully submitted,

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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

)	
In the Matter of:)	
)	CC Docket No. 97-213
Communications Assistance for Law)	
Enforcement Act)	
)	

Certificate of Service

I, Myla R. Saldivar-Trotter, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C., hereby certify that, on February 17, 2000, I caused to be filed the original and eleven (11) copies of the foregoing Reply to Comments on FBI/DOJ Petition for Reconsideration and/or Clarification, and served copies of the same by First Class Mail, or by hand where noted, upon the parties identified on the attached service list.

DATED at Washington, D.C. this 17th day of February, 2000.

Myla R. Saldwar-Trotter

Myla R. Saldivar-Trotter

Certificate of Service

I, Myla R. Saldivar-Trotter, Federal Bureau of Investigation, hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Reply to Comments on FBI/DOJ Petition for Reconsideration and/or Clarification was served via hand delivery (indicated by *) or by mail to the following parties:

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